



WINTER CARE RESOURCE GUIDE

EKPA's resource guide for Winter tips and tricks to keep your Kunekune herd healthy and happy during the winter months!





- Have an established relationship with a veterinarian.
- Medical kit that includes thermometer, basic over the counter antibiotics, molasses or honey, needles & syringes and dewormer.
- Daily health checks - spend time with your pigs. Knowing them well, will be the best thing you can do for them when they show you signs that they are ill.
- Assess each pig 2x per day for any illness or unnatural behavior. Check daily for shivering, assess interest in food, heavy/pounding breaths, lethargy, etc.
- Check your Kunekune's skin. In the winter pigs are prone to mites. Be diligent to use dewormers like dectomax or ivermectin in the winter months to combat mites.
- Provide draft free shelter with clean dry bedding. Check this space every 4-5 days to make sure it is well stocked with fresh bedding.
- Clean bathroom areas regularly to control moisture and manure buildup. You can use lime to combat smell if needed.

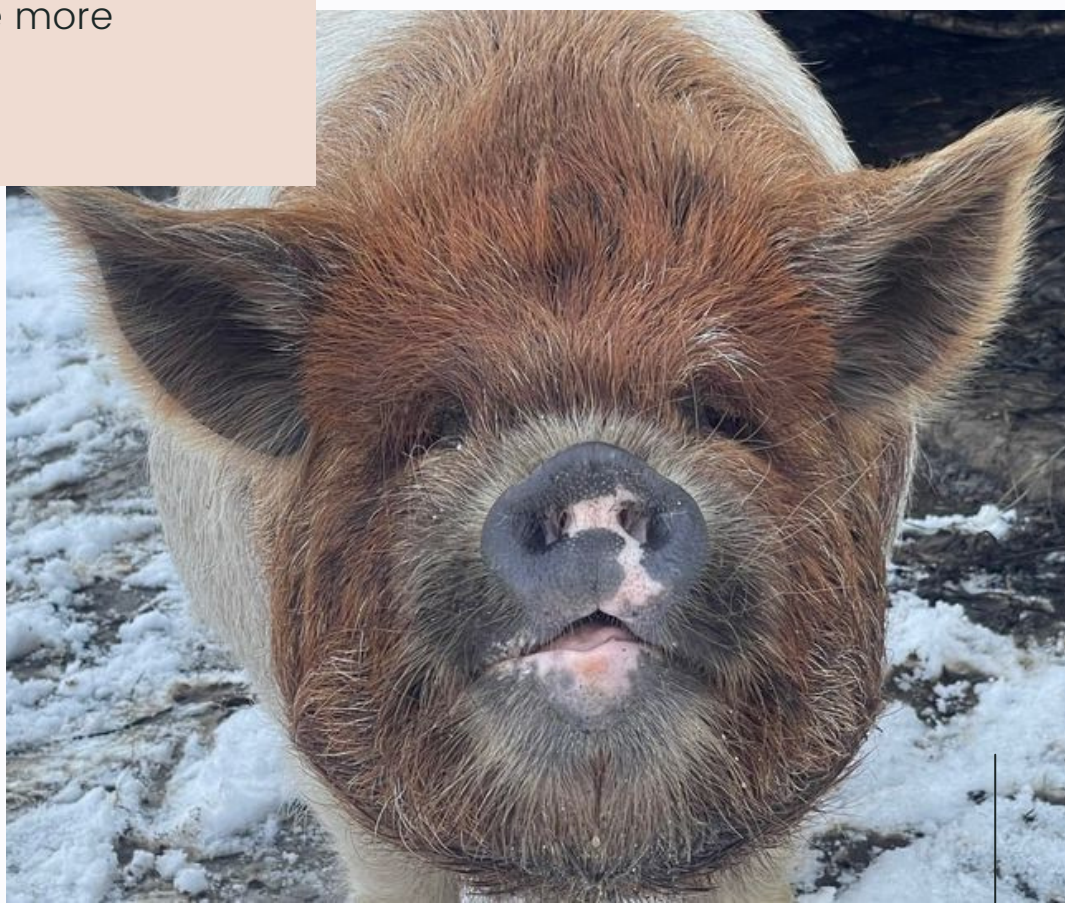
SHELTER TIPS

- Dry draft free area that is safe and secure from rain, snow, wind and mud.
- Install a cover for their entrance: rugs, blankets, tarps, curtains, mud flaps.
- Dry deep bedding to burrow in (Course shavings, straw, wool, or hay).
- Pigs should be housed in pairs to create more body heat.

WINTER SHELTERS

A variety of shelters can work. Hoop huts, porta-huts, wood huts, calf huts, **small greenhouses, barns, barn stalls, triangle shelters, etc...

The further north you are located the more "secure" your shelters should be from drafty cold winds all winter long to protect pigs.



WINTER SUPPLY TIPS

- Water heaters or a method of changing out frozen water dishes several times per day.
- Multiple tanks, troughs and feed dishes since cold weather makes these brittle and they can be easily broken.
- Heat lamps (we only recommend [the Prima Heat Lamp from Premier One Supplies](#)).
- Proper medications for respiratory issues, fevers, etc.
- Snacks with high sugar content such as bananas, apples, grapes to boost blood sugar levels and help keep hypothermia at bay on the coldest of days. 'Jump start' paste is excellent as well.
- Generators and electric cords.
- Extra feed, hay, and bedding.



WINTER FEEDING TIPS

- Fresh clean water at all times (pigs love warm water in cold weather) ****DO NOT** rely on snow as a hydration method.**
- Increase feed intake during the winter for extra calories & energy.
- Natural light for their feeding area keeps pigs more active and healthy.
- High quality forage in their huts and outside of huts for them to nibble on throughout the day and night. This will keep your Kunekunes more content when pasture has died off.
- High sugar snacks such as bananas, apples, grapes to boost blood sugar levels and help keep hypothermia at bay on the coldest of days.
- If you have access to woodlands or nut bearing orchards, allowing your pigs to winter forage in those areas helps add nutrient rich nuts into their winter diets.

